



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2002

Contact: Randy Shepard, Gold Beach Information Center: (541) 247-2486, 247-2590, and 247-2620

Rogue River Trail Closure Lifted

Gold Beach, OR – The Rogue River Trail (#1160) through the Wild Rogue Wilderness in northern Josephine and Curry Counties will reopen today, August 29, announced the Siskiyou National Forest and the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management. The trail was closed on August 2nd as a precaution when the Biscuit Fire was rapidly growing.

“Our initial concern was the difficulty of notifying or evacuating hikers should the fire make a rapid run into this remote area. We are pleased to be able to re-open the trail for the upcoming holiday weekend,” commented BLM Field Manager Abbie Jossie.

After weeks of battling the nation’s largest fire, crews are nearing containment of the blaze and the local land management agencies have decided to lift the trail closure.

“The threat from the Biscuit Fire has diminished sufficiently to allow the public to safely resume use of this popular hiking trail,” explained Diana St. Marie, Acting Gold Beach District Ranger for the Siskiyou National Forest.

There are a number of road and area closures that are still in effect due to continuing high fire danger and post-fire hazards, such as snags and rolling rocks. Both Jossie and St. Marie recommend that hikers check the status of access routes prior to beginning their trip. Remember, it is prohibited to build, maintain, attend, or use a fire or a campfire. (Utilizing commercially produced, pressurized, liquid or gas stoves is acceptable.) Even when using a stove, extreme caution is advised. It is also advised to carry and drink plenty of fluids and avoid travel during the hottest parts of the day.

Additional information about the existing closures is available at the Smullin Visitor Center at Rand, Oregon, (541- 479-3735), www.or.blm.gov/rougeriver or the Gold Beach Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, (541-247-3600) or visit www.biscuitfire.com on the internet.

###

Today’s acreage for the Biscuit Fire is 500,023 and is 90% contained. Full containment is expected by August 31.

--	--	--